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GENERAL

1. Israeli thrust into Syria reported-- US representative Ethridge in Beirut transmits reports from UN observers that Israeli forces made an incursion into Syrian territory on 5 April and that a general mobilization has been ordered in Syria. (Israeli-Syrian armistice negotiations had been scheduled to open on 5 April.) Meanwhile, Acting Mediator Bunche has made strong representations to the Israeli Government, pointing out that the Israeli incursion is "a most flagrant and dangerous violation" of the Security Council truce order and insisting that any Israeli forces beyond the Syrian frontier be withdrawn immediately.
 2. Embassy Moscow's views on the Soviet anti-Tito program-- US Embassy Moscow expresses the view that the USSR will continue to use indirect methods in its anti-Tito program even though the Kremlin is committed to Tito's liquidation and must feel tempted to use direct military force. The Embassy expects widespread guerrilla activities on the Greek pattern to break out this spring and to be centered on, but not confined to, the Yugoslav-Macedonian frontiers. According to the Embassy, the Kremlin's objective in these activities would be to drain Tito's strength to such an extent that the western powers would not consider it feasible to give Tito enough assistance to continue resisting.

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(CIA Comment: Although the USSR will probably use every subversive device likely to increase opportunities for the overthrow of the Tito regime, CIA doubts that these tactics will include large-scale guerrilla warfare or that Tito will permit a war of attrition to develop against him without taking vigorous countermeasures.)

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NO. 023

Document No. 605

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DEC 19 1977

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20 MAR 1978

TOP SECRET

FAR EAST

3. KOREA: Plans for US troop withdrawals--The Department of State has advised US representative Muccio in Seoul of its concern lest preparations now under way for evacuation of US occupation forces will result in premature publicity on withdrawal plans before either the Republic of Korea or the UN Commission on Korea has formally approved the move. The Department is anxious to avoid giving the impression that the US troop withdrawals from Korea are either contrary to the wishes of the Republic or in response to Korean pressure. Muccio has been asked to estimate whether formal establishment of a Military Advisory Group for Korea at this time would minimize the adverse effects of the eventual withdrawal announcement.

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